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THURSDAY JANUARY 3RD, 2019

**BCBC begins another consultation on scrapping bus subsidies - see page 3.**

**AM and councillors want action over traffic congestion - see page 2.**

## Councillors set to decide on the future of Scout building

PLANS to demolish a building used by a Scout group in Porthcawl and replace it with 10 homes will go before councillors on the local authority's planning committee on Thursday, January 3.

The application has now revised the plans, altering the design of the proposed

semi-detached properties and four one-bedroom flats on the site of Woodland Hall in Woodlands Avenue. Permission was refused in 2016 for a similar scheme over design concerns and a lack of information justifying the loss of the community facility.

The application has now revised the plans, altering the design of the proposed

semi-detached properties and four one-bedroom flats on the site of Woodland Hall in Woodlands Avenue. Planning officers are recommending the plans for approval subject to conditions.

But the application has sparked numerous objections from residents with concerns over the loss of a community asset, the loss of green space and fears the new home for the Scouts might not happen.

The Scout hall is used as a youth club during school term and as a polling station.

Ward councillor Brian Jones has objected on grounds of an intensification of building, loss of a community facility and highway issues.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 3

## Record numbers turn out at Porthcawl Christmas Swim



We're all in together at the Christmas Day swim! See more photographs by Andy Wicks on page 19.

**THE 54th Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim brought the highest number of swimmers yet with over 1,300 registered swimmers.**

The day was dry with barely a breeze for the traditional chilly dip in the Bristol Channel. With the high tide at 8am there was about half of the beach for the swimmers to run down to get to the sea.

The swimmers were supported and cheered on by approximately 3,500 spectators.

At 11.45am Mayor of Porthcawl, Cllr Norah Clarke and Porthcawl Coastguards signalled the start of the parade. Many were in 'Superheroes' fancy dress.

A spokesperson from the swim committee said: "We are delighted with the fantastic turn out today. The swim is a great

family event with many different generations of the same family taking part. The atmosphere all around the swimmers is very special and hard to explain."

Swim chairman, Dave King said: "Once again we have been grateful to all who supported our swim and the number of people who turned up was fantastic. Collections are made during the swim and we hope the bucket collections and swimmers sponsorship will help us to make some generous donations in the New Year. Our main beneficiary this year is Prostate Cymru and we will also help many other local charities and organisations."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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# Former local councillor dies after long illness

**BRIDGEND** Conservative Association is saddened to announce the death of one of its members. Terry Hacking, who until very recently served the residents of Brackla as a community councillor, passed away on Thursday, December 27 after a long illness.

Mr Hacking had also previously been elected to BCBC in 2008.

Conservative Association chairman, Carolyn Webster said: "Terry had served the residents of Brackla for more than 30 years, and I'm sure many people will be saddened to hear this news. We, in the Bridgend Conservative Party, are all thinking of Pat, Terry's wife, at this time."

Details of Mr Hacking's funeral have not yet been released.



## Charity supporter bags a new MG

A CHARITY supporter has won a new car worth more than £10,000 in Tenovus Cancer Care's Big Birthday Raffle.

Shân Watkins, from Hirwaun, was one of the first people to buy a raffle ticket when the raffle launched in March, as part of the charity's 75th anniversary celebrations.

The raffle raised £37,000 to help fund the charity's research, treatment and support and was supported by Nathaniel Car Sales, who supplied a new MG3 Form Sport car to be given away as the top prize.

Shân regularly supports the charity by attending events organised by the Aberdare Friends of Tenovus Cancer Care Group and it was at a fashion show organised by the group that she bought the winning ticket.

Shân said: "When I had the call from Louise at Tenovus, I couldn't believe it. I sat there all day and all night thinking about it and even called the Tenovus office the next day to double check!"

"I've never won anything before and

it's a beautiful car. Thank you to Tenovus Cancer Care and Nathaniel Cars."

Louise Swindell from Tenovus said: "The winning ticket was actually one of the very first tickets sold.

"It's so wonderful to be able to do this for someone, especially someone who is such a big supporter of the charity."

Tenovus would like to say a big thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and to Wayne Griffiths at Nathaniel Cars for supporting the raffle."

Jean Phillips from Bridgend, a founding member of the charity's Bridgend Sing with Us choir, has been volunteering and supporting the charity.

Over the past couple of months, Jean volunteered her time to the raffle by asking businesses and local people to buy a ticket and Jean handed over the keys to Shân at Nathaniel Cars showroom.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us -email [editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk](mailto:editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk)

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From left: Suzy Davies AM; Cllr Aniel Pucella; and Cllr Tom Giffard, presumably on a quiet day, the congested junction of Coychurch Road and Simonston Road in Brackla.

## AM and councillors want action over traffic congestion

AN ASSEMBLY Member and county councillors have joined forces in calling for action to help with traffic congestion in a suburb of Bridgend.

Suzy Davies AM and the three Conservative councillors for Brackla are calling for developers to play their part in improving traffic flow in the area.

The call comes as more houses are set to be built in and near the ward.

Mrs Davies, with Cllrs Tom Giffard, Kay Rowlands and Aniel Pucella want to see some of the money that housing developers pay to the community be used to help improve road safety, air quality and active travel.

"Many residents already complain about the traffic congestion around Brackla," said Cllr Giffard.

"The junction at Coychurch Road and Simonston Road in particular can often have traffic build up as residents try to get out. At peak times, it is not unheard of for residents to wait up to 10 minutes. This has meant that people often choose to drive the long way through Brackla to avoid this, both adding to unnecessary traffic in the area and pollution."

Mrs Davies, the Conservative AM for South Wales West, and the councillors have suggested that installing a mini roundabout at the junction before the railway bridge could help with traffic flow and reduce pollution at the same time.

Mrs Davies said: "Developers are often required to spend Section 106 community improvement money to help relieve the impact of developments on local residents.

"Taylor Wimpey is already building 230 houses on the edge of Brackla and Persimmon was granted conditional consent to build a further 20 houses near this.

"While the development is on the border between Coity and Brackla, it

is clear that all these additional houses will lead to more traffic travelling down Simonston Road towards the motorway.

"While the application says that Persimmon will be adding cycle and pedestrian access and facilities, it would be wrong to presume that the development will not also lead to an increase in local traffic.

"Residents would be right to feel that Persimmon should contribute to a mini roundabout at the bottom of Simonston Road to help with traffic flow and congestion."

Cllr Rowlands said: "Since being elected, I have been making complaints to the council about this junction. This route is incredibly dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists, and prevents safe walking access between Brackla and the industrial estate. It is clearly a project that must be on the top of the agenda."

Cllr Pucella said: "I want to make it clear that we are not against the building of homes for local families. However, when these applications are granted, they need to consider the impact they will have on the local community and, where possible, these should be reduced."

"As councillors, we have met with planning officers and made it clear that we cannot support any further development in the area without improvements to this junction."

Persimmon was granted permission to build 20 homes on land to the east of the A4061 in September 2018. This followed Taylor Wimpey receiving permission to build 230 houses in October 2016 at land at Brackla Industrial Estate of Wyndham Close.

## Defibrillators in your area



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**Bridgend Office Furniture**, Tower House, Tower Close, Bridgend, CF31 3TH

**Brynteg Comprehensive School**, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF31 3ER

**Mrs Ann Harrison-Power**, Channel View, Cwmberri, Coity, Bridgend, CF35 6BT

**Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church**, 201 New Rd, Porthcawl, CF36 5BN

**Porthcawl Masonic Lodge**, Masonic Hall, New Rd, Porthcawl, CF36 5DG

**Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club**, Waun-y-mer Kenfig, Bridgend, CF33 4PU

**Grove Golf Club**, Porthcawl, CF33 4RP

**Bridgend Mercedes Benz**, Old Field Road, Pencoed, CF35 5LJ

**Smyrna Baptist Chapel**, Vestry (Hall) Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4LY

Information supplied by [www.welshhearts.org.uk](http://www.welshhearts.org.uk).

## Volunteers needed at Maesteg-based support group

A SIGHT loss charity is calling for volunteers to help run a Maesteg-based support group for people with macular disease.

The Macular Society is appealing for anyone living locally who would be willing to give up some of their time to help run the group. Duties will include organising meetings, booking speakers and serving refreshments to members. The Maesteg Macular support group meets on the second Monday of each month from 10.30am

- 12.30pm at the Heritage Suite, Maesteg Health and Wellbeing Centre, Hartshorn House, Neath Road, Maesteg (CF34 9EE).

The group's first meeting of 2019 will be held on Monday, January 14.

For more information about the group, contact Adele Francis on 01639 843236/07494 468007, or email [adele.francis@macularsociety.org](mailto:adele.francis@macularsociety.org).

## Shop window winners named

THIS week Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, after some difficult judging, announced the winners of its annual Christmas shop window competition.

The prizes were presented by Chamber president Rob Lee and Porthcawl Town mayor Cllr Nora Clarke.

1st prize, Divine £100 and silver cup for 12 months; 2nd prize, Walters shoes £50; 3rd prize, Bliss £25.

Highly commended were Travelland, Nuu Salon, and AJ Gutteridge the Florist.

David Swidenbank

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# BCBC begins another consultation to scrap further bus subsidies

**ANOTHER** year, and axed on six bus services from another consultation by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to scrap its subsidies to bus services.

The consultation, which ends on March 10, 2019, comes after BCBC cut £130,000 funding for a number of routes last year, but protected three services for a further year.

BCBC and Welsh Government both subsidise the provision of regional and local bus routes, which are "not commercially viable".

BCBC is looking to remove subsidies on all bus services to save £180,000, part of its financial strategy to help balance the books from April.

The routes under threat involve those linking communities to GP surgeries, libraries and hospitals as well as schools, shops and post offices.

In September, council officers said that despite subsidies being

Monday to Saturday.

- 51 (Easyway) Bridgend to Oaklands (circular) via Bridgend Life Centre/Bridgend Library. Monday to Saturday.

- 61 (Peyton Travel) Porthcawl to North Cornelly via Nottage, Kenfig Nature Reserve and Maudlam. Monday to Saturday.

- 67 (First Cymru) Bridgend to Sarn via Pen-y-Fai and Aberkenfig. Monday to Saturday.

- 73 (First Cymru) Bridgend to Blaengarw via Sarn, Bettws, Llangeinor and Pontycymmer. Monday to Saturday.

- 76 (First Cymru) Bridgend to Bettws via Sarn and Nyssawdre. Monday to Saturday.

- 16 (Easyway) via Sarn, Bryncethin, Bettws, Llangeinor and Brachycymmer. Monday to Saturday.

- 37 (Easyway) Maesteg Avenue to Porthcawl via Rest Bay, Trecco Bay and Happy Valley Caravan Park. Monday to Saturday.

Liz Bradfield,  
Local democracy reporter

## Scout building's future set to be discussed by councillors



ABOVE: The scout hall to be demolished.

RIGHT: Gilgal Baptist Church Hall.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If approved by councillors, Valleys to Coast would need to enter into an agreement to ensure Woodland Hall is not demolished until the Scouts have relocated to their new base.

Woodland Hall and the land it sits on is owned by Valleys to Coast which leases it to the scouts.

To aid the development proposal Valleys to Coast is planning to purchase the leasehold of Gilgal Baptist Church hall in Woodland Avenue.

The hall is currently used by a couple of community organisations.

Gilgal Baptist Church's main site is in Park Avenue. Porthcawl Town Council has no objections to the plans.

The planning application number is P/16/609/FUL.



## Christmas Day swim draws in the crowds!

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr King continued: "As a small committee, we are delighted at the way we have been supported once again this year. I would like to thank all swimmers and spectators. However, as with so many events, the swim wouldn't be possible without the support of our volunteers, sponsors and fellow 'Buckaneers'."

Photographs by Andy Wicks (07855 374478) – see more on page 19.

# Briary Wood planning application resubmitted a week before Christmas

**IN AN UNSEASONAL VARIATION ON THE HOKEY-COKEY, A PROPERTY DEVELOPER PUT AN APPLICATION IN, TOOK THE APPLICATION OUT, AND HAS NOW PUT IT BACK IN.**

The application – which residents in Brackla, the location of the proposed development, learned about on December 17 – is to build three homes near ancient woodland in Bridgend. The closing date for objections was today, Thursday January 3.

Submitted by Homestyle Domiciliary Care, the outline planning application involves building three detached homes and garages on Briary Wood in Briary Way.

The site forms part of the locally-designated 'Tremains' Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and is also registered as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland with the trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

Keith Hughes who has lived in the local area for 30 years and started a campaign against the plans has launched a new Save Briary Wood petition on [youarea.co.uk](http://youarea.co.uk).

He said: "People are extremely disappointed to see this application again."

"It's a Christmas offering we certainly didn't wish for."

"Many of my neighbours had no notion of the new submission until I contacted them last week; their official letters arrived on December 17."

Mr Hughes added: "Local

residents are extremely unhappy with the timing of this application and the fact that all their previous hard work in submitting objections to the original application P/18/381/OUT will not be transferred across by BCBC, including the local petition which generated support from 176 residents, many of whom do not have access to a computer."

"I think it's about time Natural Resources Wales and Bridgend County Borough Council took note of the tree management plans in place and started protecting this woodland."

Another local resident, Dan Esmond, whose family home backs onto the site, said neighbours had several concerns about the plans including fears that if the outline planning application was approved for three homes, more might be built at a later date.

He said: "The site contains a

lot of protected trees.

"We ought to be keeping woodland rather than chopping them down."

He said there were also concerns over the increased traffic on a private road, the lack of light in the area and the changing nature of a "very quiet area".

The Woodland Trust formally objected to the earlier application submitted during the summer saying the development would cause significant damage to an important habitat.

However, Natural Resources Wales recommended planning permission be granted if a condition relating to bats was made as part of the application.

According to a tree survey commissioned by the applicant, the predominant species on the site are Ash, Sycamore, Hawthorn and Hazel.

The specialist said of the trees assessed on the site, that the majority were of "...low quality and value".

The planning application number was P/18/960/OUT, a re-submission of P/18/381/OUT.

Liz Bradfield  
Local democracy reporter/  
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# Old Porthcawlian's bequest gave an early Christmas treat to elderly townsfolk



**EVERY year** Porthcawl Town Council (PTC) hosts the Jenkins Henry Tea for the 20 oldest residents in the town – but the proviso is that to qualify, they must have been born in Porthcawl.

The recipients were aged between 66 and 95, and were invited to the Grand Pavilion where they were served a cream tea after being entertained by Rob and Ann Taylor of Porthcawl Museum with an illustrated talk on RAF Stormy Down during World War Two.

Each was presented with a certificate and gift bag by Deputy Mayor Cllr Graham Walter, Cllr Sean Aspey and deputy town clerk Sarah Watkins. Jenkins Henry was

Report and photographs by David Swidenbank.

# Council to ponder response to budget consultation

**ALMOST** half the people responding to Bridgend County Borough Council's budget consultation have said they would be unwilling to pay more council tax than the proposed 4.9 per cent increase to protect services in the county.

The consultation asked residents questions such as which services should be cut, and which should be protected in the local authority's budget for next year.

The local authority is facing having to make millions of pounds of cuts to balance the books next year.

Services most frequently selected to make cuts by people participating in the consultation were libraries, arts centres and theatres, sports and recreation services, weed spraying, funding for post-16 transport and separate collection for absorbent hygiene products.

Almost half those responding agreed that the bus station should be closed in order to make budget savings while around 80 per cent of people said Blue Badge holders should pay for parking.

A total of 66 per cent of people disagreed with proposed cuts to reduce the number of day

centres or services for the elderly and 42 per cent disagreed with the proposal to remove subsidies from bus services.

While 50 per cent of respondents felt that leisure services should be protected, 50 per cent felt that cultural services could be reduced to make savings.

A total of 60 per cent of people stated they would be willing to pay more to access sports facilities, pavilions and parks.

Additionally, almost half the people agreed that nursery provision should be reduced to 15 hours per week to make savings and that funding for post-16 transport should be removed.

A total of 53 per cent of respondents disagreed with the proposal to ask schools to make budget savings of 1 per cent per year over the next four years.

Presenting a report before councillors at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, December 18, officers said the most popular services to protect were schools, care of older people, services for disabled people and leisure services.

Deputy leader Hywel Williams said: "There is a lot of rich information in the consultation report with over 5,000 responses from the public.

"We will now analyse them and look at this information in

detail before we come to set the budget in February next year."

Council leader Huw David said: "The outcome of the consultation is that the public want to protect schools and social services, and services for disabled people.

"It's a theme we have seen in every consultation we have taken to the public on our budget for as long as I can remember."

The local authority received 5,288 responses to its consultation through various methods, totalling 3.69 per cent of the population in the county of Bridgend.

While BCBC's public consultation, which ended on November 18, stated council tax was set to increase by at least 4.9 per cent in 2019, finance officers told cabinet members on November 20 it was more likely to be a 5.4 per cent increase in a report on the local authority's proposed budget of almost £270m.

Final decisions on the budget for 2019-20 will be made by councillors in February.

Liz Bradfield  
Local democracy reporter

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# BCBC will cease managing nature reserve as trust continues looking for a replacement

**B R I D G E N D**  
**County Borough Council (BCBC)**  
**has decided to end its management of Kenfig National Nature Reserve when its lease expires for the site at the end of 2019.** CABINET members approved the decision at a meeting on Tuesday, December 18.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has decided to end its management of Kenfig National Nature Reserve when its lease expires for the site at the end of 2019.

Cabinet members approved the decision at a meeting on Tuesday, December 18.

It will bring to an end a decades-long period of site management by local government.

The nature reserve comprises around 1,300 acres of managed coastal sand dunes and wetlands on the coastline between Porthcawl and Port Talbot and is regarded as one of the finest examples of a sand dune habitat in

Europe. It is owned by the Kenfig Corporation Trust (KCT) which is in discussions with various organisations about taking over management of the reserve from the council.

BCBC said it had planned to end its management of the site for several years to make way for a more specialised organisation such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) or the Wildlife

Trust which run numerous sites including Newport Wetlands and Llanelli Wetland Centre.

The cabinet member for education and regeneration, Cllr Charles Smith, said: "We have the expertise to fulfil the lease, and maintain and improve the ecology on site but we don't have the expertise to maintain a site like this into the future.

"A commercial mind is needed as you have got to make it pay for itself in a sustainable way.

"In these days of austerity, the site needs a different organisation with a different sort of capacity."

He added: "The lease we have isn't set up for a proper visitor attraction,

for example, having a cafe on site is specifically prohibited in the lease.

"If the RSPB came in that's the first thing they would look to do because it would be a revenue stream."

Cllr Smith said conservation charities would not only be able to gain access to different grants but also bring a wealth of members to the site in visitors and volunteers.

The council's 20-year lease for the nature reserve expires on December 31, 2019 but some form of local government has run the reserve since the 1970s.

BCBC expects to save £40k a year from no longer running the site but points out it has relied heavily on grants over the years with the actual running costs being around £200k a year.

Next year, the local authority is faced with making around £8m cuts to its budget.

Speaking at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday, communities director Mark Shephard said:

"While all financial savings are important in the current climate, it is not the main purpose of this decision.

"It is important the

trustees find an organisation with specialist skills and the capacity to run it on a long-term basis."

Council leader Huw David added: "Kenfig is certainly unique in the county borough.

"Its importance is not only local or national but international, being recognised by the European Union. "We have worked very closely with partners since managing the site and we will continue to do so in the future to make sure the environment is protected and enhanced."

Council officers say expiry of the lease will not affect the public's use of the existing public footpaths and bridleways.

However, they say there will be changes in 2020 due to another body managing the site. It could include parking charges – at the moment parking is free.

The council currently employs a nature reserve manager and a cleaner on site and says the two employees would be entitled to continued employment with the new management services provider under the Transfer of Undertakings

(Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

But, it said, if the TUPE process did not proceed, it was likely the council would have to undertake a redundancy consultation.

Nature reserve manager Dave Carrington has worked at the reserve since 1996 when there were four full-time wardens.

He said the site attracted between 100,000 and 200,000 visitors a year and has a "really strong" group of volunteers who help manage the dunes, carry out scrub clearance, keep the car parks tidy and conduct ecological surveys.

Kenfig Corporation Trust has been approached for comment.

**"We could not keep knocking on a closed door"**

**BCBC has voiced its frustration over appointing a successor to manage Kenfig National Nature Reserve, with council officers having first begun the process in 2010.** BCBC's manager



*From left to right: Nature reserve manager Dave Carrington, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) rural programme coordinator Mark Blackmore, volunteer warden Robert Howells and Cllr Charles Smith.*

for economy and natural resources Ieuan Sherwood said: "We spent four years, and a lot of time and money, trying but unfortunately the aspiration wasn't matched by the landowner.

"It's now in the trust's hands and they're discussing with several organisations about taking over from the council."

He added: "Time is running out, there's now a year left.

"It's a challenging, complex site – the more time the new organisation has to work with us the easier the transition is going to be.

"In 2014, it was decided we couldn't keep knocking at a closed door and we put in place a five-year management plan for the

remainder of the lease. "It's now in the trust's hands and they're discussing with several organisations about taking over from the council."

He added: "Time is running out, there's now a year left.

"It's a challenging, complex site – the more time the new organisation has to work with us the easier the transition is going to be.

"We are here to help the process. "As a site, it's a sleeping giant – it deserves to have what others can bring."

**CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 7**

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# BCBC steps aside from managing nature reserve

**CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 6**

Mr Sherwood added that the council would be working over the next 12 months to ensure the site was left in a good condition to pass onto the new management organisation.

He said: "We will be doing a condition check on the building and fixing everything that needs fixing, and we are doing Rights of Way work."

Daron Herbert, Natural Resources management team leader said: "Kenfig Dunes is a special area of conservation (SAC) and site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and protecting the plants and wildlife that live there is one of NRW's key roles.

"To do this we work with the landowner to ensure appropriate management is being undertaken to the rare fen orchid

safeguard the relevant conservation features."

"The Trust is currently in the process of appointing new tenants and we have supported the process by advising prospective tenants on the protected site considerations and responsibilities."

#### GEM NOTE

Kenfig National Nature Reserve covers about 1,300 acres of sand dunes and wetlands. It includes the clear waters of Kenfig Pool which, at 70 acres, is the largest natural lake in south Wales.

The reserve is home to many rare species of plants, insects, birds and animals. It is recognised as one of the most important sites for wildlife in Europe.

It is one of only a handful of sites in the UK where you can see Time Team in 2012.

**Liz Bradfield**  
**Local democracy reporter**

Today, sand dunes cover the remains of the Bronze Age settlement, which was also the subject of an archaeological dig by television's Time Team in 2012.

**Liz Bradfield**  
**Local democracy reporter**

# Kenfig sheep are under attack from family pet dogs



A flock of sheep on Kenfig National Nature Reserve.  
Photo by Mark Blackmore.

**DOG** walkers at Kenfig Nature Reserve near Porthcawl are being urged to keep their pets on a lead around livestock after a number of sheep which graze on the land were attacked.

Around 500 sheep and 30 cows graze on the reserve but three attacks on sheep have already taken place this winter. Bridgend County Borough Council's manager for economy and natural resources, Ieuan Sherwood, said: "We have data that shows miscarriage rates of the sheep which graze on the reserve are 20 per cent higher than compared to on the farm.

"The Countryside Code says that when you're in a natural environment you should keep your dog under control at all times or on a lead.

"It's impossible to police dog walkers because the site is huge – it is very much an individual's responsibility to keep their animals under control."

Nature reserve manager Dave Carrington added: "We have had dog owners come up to us and say they have lost their dogs – which then turn up hours later, sometimes with blood on their faces.

"They have spent hours chasing sheep and their owners haven't seen it happen."

Sheep and cattle such as English Longhorn and Highland Cattle help keep scrub down on the reserve under a grazing agreement between farmers and Natural Resources Wales.

**Liz Bradfield**  
**Local democracy reporter**

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# Bridgend Council has high hopes of new energy schemes



**B R I D G E N D** county is one of just three places, alongside Manchester and Newcastle, in the UK to test pioneering heating schemes which could then potentially be rolled out across the country.

One of those is the first ever large-scale mine-water energy scheme in the UK with another an underground heat network in Bridgend town for homes, schools, hospitals and businesses.

Additionally,

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) – which is looking to decarbonise by 2050 – is working with private companies such as Hitachi and Western Power Distribution on a multi-million pound partnership to bring forward a marketable energy product.

The Caerau mine-water project is looking to begin in 2020 with the first homes being connected to the system in winter 2021.

Construction work on the Caerau mine-water project near Maesteg is due to begin in 2020 with the first homes being connected to the system in winter 2021.

It comes after test drilling into the mine workings under the Old Brewers site in Caerau found that the mining void was full of water to a depth of 230m – and had a temperature of 20 degrees Celsius.

The project is based on technology being used in Heerlen, a city in the Netherlands, and is

made possible due to the naturally-heated water from the old coal mine.

Using heat pump technology and a network of pipes, the project will begin by heating around 150 nearby homes, the local school and church.

The idea is to pump the water to a heat transference system above ground which is the size of a shipping container.

Here the heat will be extracted out of the mine water – with the mine water being pumped back into the mine to warm up again – and transported through a network of pipes to people's homes.

The heat will get passed through a heat pump and then heat homes using their existing radiator systems.

The mine-water itself would not, at any point, enter people's homes.

The council hopes it will get around 150 volunteer homes to sign up to the scheme who will then have the equipment put in for free.

BCBC's cabinet member for communities Cllr Richard Young said: "Either in people's homes or outside it there will be a heat transference piece of equipment the size of a fridge."

"The residual heat that comes into a house will be boosted once more and it's that that will heat the home."

"It is a new way of heating a home. The central heating systems we currently use are very inefficient because you're burning gas or fuel every time you

heat your home which then cools down when you turn it off and has to warm up again when you turn it on.

"With this new way you will just leave it on. It creates an ambient temperature that you're comfortable with all the time.

"We are going to put the whole network in once the trial has been proven and then link all the properties up to it.

"It will be a cheaper way of heating homes for people because you're not re-warming the air all the time – it will cut out the need for gas.

"We are hoping to use renewable electricity to enable the heat transference.

"As far as the technology goes we know it works because this very system is being used in the Netherlands.

"We'd like to heat about 1,000 homes. Caerau is a small mining village which is the fifth most deprived ward in Wales.

"The scheme can also be looked at as a means to fight fuel poverty.

"It's hard to say how much cheaper energy prices will be but I'd be disappointed if we haven't reduced bills by about £120 a year – around a quarter – which is quite significant.

That's a rather conservative estimate but I'd rather speculate on the lower side than higher side."

The scale of the £9.4m scheme will be the first of its kind in the UK and would use existing radiators.

It includes a £6.5m Welsh European Funding Office grant with BCBC funding of £400,000 and grants from UK Government and the Welsh Government.

The project has a large number of stakeholders including Cardiff University, Natural Resources Wales, and The Coal Authority.

Cllr Young said: "Once we've proven it works in Caerau it should work elsewhere – south Wales is honeycombed with mines.

"What a legacy for all those miners who went down underground – they sweated, they laboured, they got injured, sometimes they died."

"Now as a result of all that labour, we are now in a situation where we can possibly heat homes with clean energy – what a tribute to that, what a legacy that they left."

Initially there was some opposition to the plans in the village but Cllr Young says this diminished once residents were able to see how the heating system would work.

He said: "As humans we view change as a threat until it's explained to us and we understand what's going on and we can see it is an improvement.

"At the beginning people feared we would be installing a drilling rig and digging holes, which is what we did when we were testing the water temperature. But once they saw how the technology would work they could understand the difference it would make."

As part of the scheme, children from schools in the Llynfi Valley have been learning about how the heat beneath their feet will be used to warm homes.

Speaking at a recent full council meeting council leader Huw David said: "Around 200 pupils have taken part in recent workshops that have been specially designed to take advantage of the scheme and explain the science, technology, engineering and mathematics behind it.

"They have also learned about the valley's rich industrial history, and how mine workings at Caerau, Bryn Navigation, Garth,

Coednant, Oakwood, Maesteg and St John's could be used to provide a safe, continuous, efficient and cost-effective form of heat for the local community."

The Coal Authority will be working on the site in the New Year to find out more about the flow of water in the mine workings.

Bridgend heat network project

Bridgend town's heat network project involves multiple phases.

The project's £2m first phase involves the installation of a combined heat and power boiler at Bridgend Life Centre which would then be used to warm not only the leisure centre but the nearby bowls hall, the civic offices, and the new Sunnyside development being built in Llan Cymru.

Subject to obtaining a £665,000 grant from the UK government and a full business case being approved the network's first phase will be operational in October 2020.

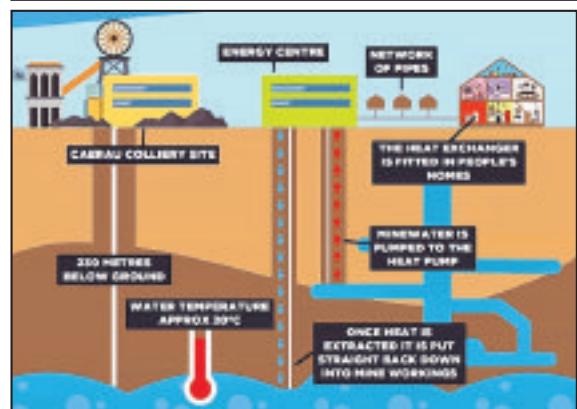
A second scheme is being looked into centred on the Princess of Wales Hospital, Glanrhdy Hospital, and the Wildmill Estate.

Future phases involve the network expanding to connect dozens of schools, houses in Brackla, the Parc Afon Ewenny development, South Wales Police Headquarters, and industrial parks.

BCBC first began investigating heat network opportunities six years ago seeking to secure heat supplies over a 50-year period, reduce carbon emissions, and reduce energy costs for customers.

BCBC which has developed the project hopes further heat networks will be built across the county with the potential for interlinking them over time.

Cllr Young said: "The boiler currently used to heat the swimming pool at the Life Centre



is coming to the end of its life and has to be changed.

"We're going to put in a larger heat system that would also serve the network."

Cllr Young says with the roads being dug up to install the pipes there is an opportunity to install the latest technology in people's homes.

"We are looking at putting in things like superfast broadband and electric hook-ups for buses, taxis, and private vehicles.

"We're also looking at technology which can be used in social care such as sensors in homes which would trigger if an elderly person had a fall and was unable to get up."

"If they broke their hip, instead of them lying there for three days and nobody finding them, the sensors would pick up there was a problem here and alert the right department which needs to be called out."

The £120m Industry Challenge Energy Fund

BCBC is due to find out shortly if it has been successful in its bid for £40m from the UK Government's Industry Challenge Energy Fund. The funding is

to be used to forge partnerships with private companies and transform the way energy is used and produced.

Bridgend's place as one of three demonstrators in the UK under the UK Government-led Smart System and Heat Programme has enabled the bid.

Cllr Young said:

"They were looking for schemes to demonstrate that there were possible ways forward."

"BCBC which had been working on both the above schemes since 2008, thought it could so they put a bid together and got it through."

"There's the possibility of economic benefits for Bridgend with maintenance jobs, apprenticeships and technology innovations."

He added: "Bridgend county borough is a microcosm of the whole of Wales."

"It has coastal areas and valleys, affluent and less affluent places, and various types of properties."

"If you're going to run a pilot and analyse the results, Bridgend is small enough to manage as a project but large enough for outcomes to be meaningful."

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# Vale Ramblers see out the year with a lovely stroll!



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AFTER the recent wet weather, members of the Vale Ramblers group were happy to be out and about on Sunday for the final walk of 2018.

Starting at St Brides Major after a gentle climb on to the top of Old Castle Down, we made our way to cross the clapper bridge in Cwm Alun, where the river was in full flow.

Crossing the railway line and heading down through Tingle Lane and woods to Ewenny, we enjoyed our lunch at the

Priory. Our leaders Peter and Jean entering into the spirit of the season provided some mulled wine and stollen.

Up to this point we had been lucky with the weather, but as we made our way through Corntown after lunch, the rain started and stayed with us for the rest of the walk.

We were fortunate enough to be joined on this walk by Santa's little helpers, Ruth and Gwion. The post-walk drinks get-together was at Southerndown.

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## Vale Mayor's fund helps out community groups

**A TOTAL of seven organisations have received grants from the Vale Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund in time for**

### 'Relief road needed as well as toll-free bridge'

THE abolition of tolls on the Severn bridges was universally welcomed, but a Vale-based company has pointed out more needs to be done to help businesses using the M4 corridor.

Masons Moving Group regularly uses the Prince of Wales Bridge for journeys to southern regions of the UK and to Europe.

Director Brett Mason said: "The financial saving will be considerable. At least five of our vans a week go up and down the M4 and our European trucks come back that way about twice a week.

"We also have UK removals to and from the south or west of England.

"As a company, we are happy to be making these savings but this is completely counteracted by the losses caused by congestion at the Brynglas tunnel which is still a massive problem."

He added: "Until a relief road happens around Newport, it is difficult to see congestion improving in the short term."

### the New Year.

The RNLI Barry Lifeboat, Tir a Môr District Scouts, Valeplus, Valeways, Ty Cadoc's Residents Association received £250 from the Mayor's grant fund. The National Coastwatch Association received £157.

The Highlight Park Community Neighbourhood Watch is made up of 16 street co-ordinators and received £243 towards their new project. The watch wants to set up 'Highlight Community Cuppa', which would meet at the community centre on a fortnightly basis.

Deputy group coordinator Barbara Bowering, Highlight Park Community Neighbourhood Watch Group coordinator Ada Finn, said: "Highlight Park is two miles from Barry town, and people can feel isolated. We want to reach out to

men and women in the neighbourhoods of Illdud and Dyfan, as well as Highlight Park. Our aim is to help raise community spirit, by getting rid of loneliness and spreading the word that support is out there for people."

The aim of the Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund is to offer grants to community groups, the voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations towards the cost of initiatives in the Vale of Glamorgan that help to support the council's vision of 'strong communities with a bright future'.

Vale Mayor Cllr Leighton Rowlands said: "I am pleased to present these groups with grants from the Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund 2018/19. It is clear that the members of each organisation are hardworking people, dedicated to their cause.

"I believe that supporting community groups, the voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations across the Vale is vital, and I am happy to support as many groups as possible, to ensure they continue to thrive."

The fund aims to provide funding of between £100 and £250. The specific funding available each financial year to be allocated is £5,000. For more information, or to apply for this funding, you can download the application form and guidance notes from the Vale website or email [TheMayor@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:TheMayor@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).



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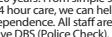


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# Bro Morgannwg's 'magical' Christmas concert in Penarth

ON December 19, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg held a magical Christmas concert.

At the All Saints Church in Penarth, over 150 pupils performed Christmas carols and songs. The audience were entertained for an hour and a half of enchanting music. As well as musical performances, the concert also consisted of dramatic presentations discussing Christmas today, and readings from members of staff and pupils.

Members of the sixth form captivated the audience with their musical talents. Anni Davies and Begw Rowlands performed individually and enchanted the audience. Aled Misra, with his powerful voice sang a solo, with the choir behind him to end the spectacular concert. The primary school children on the evening, Nadolig also performed their Llawen i bawb! teacher's original song.

HL

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# Cor Bro Ogwr's anniversary concert



IT was an evening of celebration, happy memories and heartfelt singing recently at Cor Bro Ogwr's anniversary concert!

In spite of the disappointing absence of our conductor emeritus, Alun John, due to illness, choir, soloists and orchestra gave a rousing performance which was received warmly by the audience.

The pieces, chosen from concerts, trips and conductors through the years, had all been resurrected and newly polished by Rosie Howarth, our current conductor and Alun John, who managed to fit in some rehearsals of the pieces he had chosen before the concert itself.

We welcomed back our popular tenor from our early days, Richard Allen. We all loved his rendition of 'Roses of Picardy', where the choir and audience quietly joined in the chorus. His career has gone from strength to strength and he is much in demand for his opera, oratorio

and concert work. Our soprano soloist Erin Alexander is now becoming a firm favourite with the choir, and is clearly destined for great things; such a beautiful, powerful voice from a small person! Erin is studying in the Conservatory Luigi Cherubini, Florence, and is set to perform in a number of operas with them.

Our baritone, Jack Bowtell, is currently studying for his Masters in Operatic Performance under Donald Maxwell and we hope to hear him again soon. We are fortunate to have such talented musicians with us, soloists and orchestra, as we continue in our commitment to support young musicians.

We are grateful for the support from The National Lottery through the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government, and Ty Cerdid.

Dominique Spearey

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## Golf and 'wellness' accolades for the Vale Resort Hotel

The Vale Resort in Hensol has been named Wales' best golf hotel and best resort spa for the second year running at the World Travel Awards - and has also earned itself a coveted place in the first edition of Lonely Planet's 'Wellness Escapes' book.

The four-star hotel and leisure venue was named Wales' Best Golf Hotel 2018 at the fifth annual World Golf Awards at La Manga Club, Spain.

The Vale Spa was also named Wales' Best Resort Spa 2018 at the fourth annual World Spa Awards, held at the St Regis Maldives Vommuli resort in the southern Dhaalu Atoll. The resort won both titles in 2017, too.

Both ceremonies are organised by the World Travel Awards to recognise the best in travel and leisure, and have been described by the Wall Street Journal as the 'Oscars of the travel industry'. In both awards,

votes are cast by professionals working within each industry and by members of the public.

The Lonely Planet Wellness Escapes guide is a round-up of wellness holiday hotspots from around the world. Divided into five chapters, including Active, Calm, Healthy, Indulged and Inspired, the book features reviews of almost 200 leading destinations from across the globe - from yoga retreats in India to Buddhist meditation temples in Korea.

Stephanie Metson, marketing manager at the Vale Resort, said: "We are delighted to retain our titles from the World Travel Awards, which are regarded as a benchmark of quality in our industry - it's a credit to the entire team that we find ourselves celebrating double success again 12 months later."

"It's also truly humbling to be featured in a global list of the best places to experience quality across the resort."

## 'Thank you to the Macmillan team for a great Christmas'



ABOVE:  
Bethan and her  
children Matthew,  
Megan and Reuben had  
a wonderful Christmas  
thanks to the support of  
the Macmillan team at  
Barry Hospital.

A mother of three who endured five months of cancer treatment last year has thanked the Macmillan team at Barry Hospital for its support over Christmas.

Bethan Close said she wanted the public to know about the vital role that charities play over the festive season. She explained: "In March 2018 I was diagnosed with a rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

"I had four months of intense chemotherapy and three weeks of radiotherapy. I've now been in remission since October 24, 2018."

Despite the concerns over her health Bethan was determined that her children should enjoy a great Christmas and approached Macmillan Cancer Support for a helping hand.

She explained: "I'm a single parent to three young children and taking the last 10 months off work has taken its toll financially, especially with Christmas around the corner."

"After approaching Sarah at my local Macmillan support team for financial help towards bills, she and her team went the extra mile to deliver extra Christmas presents for my children.

"My children have been so strong this last year and we forget about the charities that are around to help pick up the pieces after cancer."

"I want to thank everybody who contributed to make this Christmas just as special for us as any other year."

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# Out & About with The GEM

## This comedic take on Sherlock Holmes is an absolute stinker...

**WILL Ferrell and John C Reilly together have, thus far, equated to comedy gold. From Talladega Nights to Step Brothers (arguably Ferrell's last knockout offering), the pair have delivered the goods, so the news that they were teaming up to tackle Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson was one that, given their pedigree, should have been something of a slam dunk.**

In Holmes and Watson, the Sherlock topic was the critical

(Ferrell) and his long-time companion Watson (Reilly) must act quickly after being warned that they have four days to solve a crime before the Queen is murdered and history rewritten. Complicating things somewhat is Dr Hart (Rebecca Hall) and her companion Millie (Lauren Lapkus), who faintest of laughs if any steal the affections of the titular duo as time slowly starts to run out for the Queen – and Holmes' reputation...

Given that Christmas is usually a slow news time, the odd story may pop up about things that wouldn't normally be given the time of the day. This year's hot

mauling given to this film, with cinemagoers walking out and giving the film a less-than-favourable verdict.

Is the mass populace right? In this instance they are, for Holmes and Watson is a film that struggles along, failing to ever catch light, and, crucially, raises only the faintest of laughs if any

steal the affections of the titular duo as time slowly starts to run out for the Queen – and Holmes' reputation...

Seeing Will Ferrell and John C Reilly back together on screen is a delight, but once this film kicks in, it becomes something more akin to a nightmare. The pair both struggle to get going and, all too often, the film lowers itself to puerile jokes that aren't even all that funny.

certainly isn't his finest hour.

The story is reductive and, given its race-against-time aspect, all too unhurried, while Cohen and (male) cast spend so much time delivering stupid, imbecilic gags that the female element (Rebecca Hall, Lauren Lapkus and Pam Ferris' Queen) get barely more than a look in, reduced to plot devices that aren't even used properly.

What also goes against the grain is that Holmes' idiocy and bufoonery are so barely disguised that anyone with vague intellect could realise the sort of person he is. However, that would hugely alter the character's place in the storytelling, so this element passes by without note.

Stylistically, Cohen goes for a mix between Guy Ritchie slow-mo and Cumberbatch-esque visual solutions, and it feels like a hackneyed mash up between the two. Even the additional dialogue, recorded after the film has been shot, is lazily inserted with several scenes seeing mouths moving to words they aren't even saying. It all adds up to a film

Avoid at all costs.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Step Brothers* (2008), *Without A Clue* (1988).

THE pair play to type – Ferrell's Holmes an egotistical buffoon while Reilly's Watson is unwavering in his admiration and prepared to do anything asked of him by the arrogant Holmes – and while both try gamely, they just can't deliver anything approaching amusing.

Personally, there was one huge laugh and a medium one that, sadly, says more for my childish sense of humour than it does the sophistication of the comedy on show, and for writer/director Etan Cohen, this

all adds up to a film

all over the UK with the

Traders present on the day will be buying

as well as selling and exchanging,

and will also happily offer free

valuations on a wide range of toy and train

related items and without

any obligation; they welcome items being brought in for cash or exchange.

As always, refreshments will be available within the sale.

For more information contact 01643 702757/07966 694579 or visit the website chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

THE regular collector's bonanza reaches Cardiff again shortly when Wales' largest Toy & Train Sale arrives at Penarth Leisure Centre at Cogan, between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday, January 5.

This will be the first such Cardiff event of the New Year but three further dates in 2019 are already booked at this venue, with the following one scheduled for Saturday, April 6.

Organizer Chris Dyer commented: "Our venue at Cogan is ideal for a toy & train sale, being large, easily accessible from all areas and, most importantly, has Cogan Railway Station virtually next door."

"We now offer in excess of 120 tables at the Cardiff show, and these are operated by more than 50 traders from

all over the UK with the

Traders present on the day will be buying

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## Vale cinemas team up for new film events

**VALE Venues is an inventive new partnership between Film Hub Wales and 11 mixed arts centres and community cinemas across the Vale.**

The venues will work together to promote film screenings at all sites, giving rural audiences the best chance to find out what's happening in their town or village.

Coordinated by the Memo Arts Centre in Barry, the largest independent cinema in the Vale, the project will launch with a series of special ice-breaker film screenings across the cinema network in early 2019.

Vale Venues and the Memo will present a festival that celebrates film under the theme 'Discovery.' Spanning from summer to Christmas 2019, the film festival will be the first of its kind in the county.

Venues involved in

the project also include Barn At West Farm, Colwinston Community Cinema, Cowbridge Big Screen, Dinas Powys Community Cinema, Llancafn Community Cinema, Memo Arts Centre, Peterston Village Hall, Snowcat Cinema at Penarth Pier Pavilion, St Donats Arts Centre, Sully Community Cinema and Ystradgwyn Community and Sports Association.

Nicola Summer Smith from Creative Rural Communities, said: "We identified the social value of community cinemas for the Vale and helped support them in their early days. It's been great to see how these cinemas have developed to serve their own communities, and how new cinemas are still being formed."

For more information about Vale Venues screenings and venues, see their Facebook page or check the Barry Memo page.

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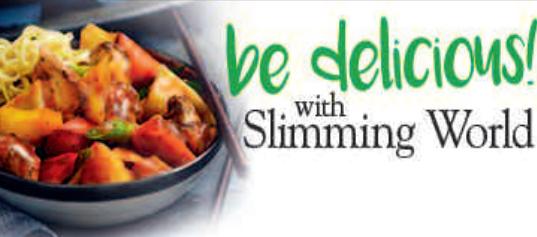
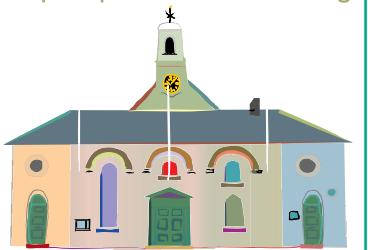
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Karl 07411 621866

**Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm**  
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose  
Helen 01446 750738/  
07968 355119

**Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm**  
Eisted Avenue United Church, Eisted Avenue, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3LX  
Martin - 07444 374377

**Tuesdays 5.30pm**  
Gladstone Primary School, Gladstone Road, Barry  
Sarah 07917 881220

**Tuesdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
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St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry  
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Helen 07714 170908

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Sarah - 07917 881220

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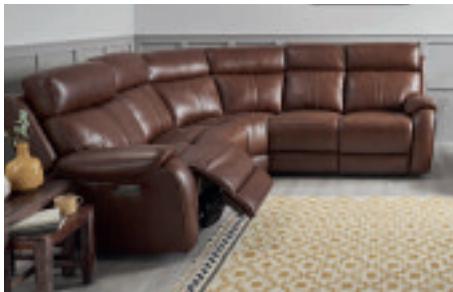
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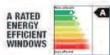
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# Everyone's a Tŷ Hafan winner at New Year's dip

PEOPLE turned out in huge numbers for the Tŷ Hafan Barry Island New Year's Day Dip.

The tradition is that those who take part need to run into the sea, dunk under three times and run out, and then repeat twice more. Not everyone achieved that, but Tŷ Hafan said simply entering the water was enough.

Local photographer Andy Wicks was on hand to capture the key moments of the day.

IMAGES by ANDY WICKS



## Chilling out at Whitmore Bay!



WHITMORE Bay Surf Life Saving Club's Boxing Day dip took place in overcast conditions. Despite the cold, club members raced down the beach to embrace the chilly waters.

IMAGES by  
ANDY WICKS



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# The annual Porthcawl Christmas Day swim sees crowds brave the icy waters!



THE 54th Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim brought the highest number of swimmers yet with over 1,300 registered swimmers braving the cold water.

ANDY WICKS (07855 374478) was on hand to capture the brave souls in action!



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# Penarth-based seafaring charity thanks its volunteers



Some of the Challenge Wales volunteers celebrating a successful 2018.

## Can you give a Home From Home?



Amanda Tidmarsh with Becky the Labrador and Bella the Yorkie

**DOGS Trust's Dogs Trust Bridgend Home From Home scheme launched in 2015 and finds foster homes for dogs that need a little extra TLC and time out from the hustle and bustle of the rehoming centre, such as young puppies, older dogs and those who have lived in a home all their life.**

Foster carer, Amanda Tidmarsh, who lives in Brynna, has fostered nine dogs since the summer, including Becky the Labrador and currently Bella the Yorkie, which have been resident at dogstrust.org.uk.

**LOCAL** charity Challenge Wales thanked its amazing volunteers for their continued support at a festive volunteers' evening at the Crepe Escape restaurant in Penarth.

During the evening, Vicky Williams, trustee of Challenge Wales, shared many successful moments with volunteers.

These included the launch of a north Wales sail training programme on its second vessel *Adventure Wales*, the launch at the Volvo Ocean Race Stopover event with Skipper Dee Caffari of an accredited environmental project focusing on marine litter, and representing Wales and the UK at the Tall Ships Races overseas, crewed by young people from a variety of backgrounds.

In 2018, Challenge Wales volunteers donated thousands of hours of their time to work with young people on its two vessels: *Challenge Wales*/Wales' Tall Ship and *Adventure Wales*.

Volunteers worked with the young people through accredited onboard learning activities, overseas,

regional and local adventures enabling all abilities to develop and improve their employability skills.

Over the year, the charity had worked with young people who were in the care system, had learning disabilities, were looking to enhance their CV, were at risk of being homeless, undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, had an unemployed parent/guardian, were recovering from substance misuse or suffering other disadvantage in their lives; many of which were supported by the charity's bursary scheme or fundraising activities.

Vicky said: "It's great that we have achieved so much this year, particularly with it being the Year of the Sea. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be the charity we are today."

Although many of the volunteers help on board *Challenge Wales* and *Adventure Wales*, the evening was an opportunity for trustees to thank all volunteers including those shore-side and behind the scenes who help with fundraising, maintenance and raising awareness of the charity.

## Skills-based immigration system that ends free movement welcomed

**ALUN Cairns, Member of Parliament for the Vale, has welcomed the Government's plan for a new single, skills-based immigration system, which marks the end of free movement once and for all.**

A spokesperson said: "The system will be built around what people can contribute, rather than where they come from. For the first time in decades, the UK will have full control over who comes here, with everyone needing permission before they arrive. "This will enable employers in the Vale of Glamorgan to have access to the skills they need from around the world, while ensuring net migration is reduced to sustainable levels.

There will be a new visa route for skilled workers, no cap for professions such as doctors and engineers and no limit on the number of international students coming to our world class universities – who will be able to stay for up to 12 months after graduation to find employment.

Mr Cairns said: "During the General Election, people in Barry and the rural Vale told me on the doorstep that they voted to take back control of our borders, and that is exactly what the future system will allow us to do."

"We will welcome talented and hardworking people who can support our economy, while bringing immigration down to sustainable levels and making sure we are training people up here in the Vale. "For the first time in decades, we will have full control over who comes here."

Home Secretary Sajid Javid added: "We are delivering on the clear instruction to get control over our borders and will bring in a new system that works in the interest of the British people.

"It will be a single, skills-based immigration system built around the talent and expertise people can bring, rather where they come from – maximising the benefits of immigration and demonstrating the UK is open for business."

For all the latest news from your area - [glamorgan-gem.co.uk](http://glamorgan-gem.co.uk)

# Screen Talk's top 10 films of 2018

IT'S that time of year again as Screen Talk wraps up cinematic 2018 in a tidy bow and presents its top 10 films of the year.

It was a good year for film overall, so distilling the essence of the last 12 months has been nothing if not a fraught affair. After blood, sweat and tears, here are the 10 films that shone brightest in 2018.

**10. *The Shape of Water*:** Guillermo Del Toro's love letter to B-movies, the 2018 Best Picture Oscar winner was more than just the surface of a woman falling in love with a strange creature from the deep. Beneath it lay themes of connection, acceptance and so much more, the director artfully creating something beautiful and moving.

**9. *BlacKkKlansman*:** Spike Lee's most charged, funny and politically astute film in a good long while, *BlacKkKlansman* was propelled by John Gordon Washington's superb lead performance as an African American detective who, with the help of his white colleague (well portrayed by Adam Driver), infiltrates the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s. That it's a true story in incredible enough, but Lee adds weight and fire to the inherent comedy to make a wondrous piece of work.

**8. *Avengers: Infinity War*:** The culmination of 20 Marvel films, *Infinity War* was undoubtedly the largest-scale operation in history, attempting to shoehorn in countless characters, story strands and plot points into a 150-minute film. That writers/directors the Russo brothers achieved this with aplomb is a testament to their skills, but this was a film where the stakes were never higher, where we said farewell to characters and where we were left waiting impatiently to see how things will turn out in 2019's *Avengers: Endgame*. An incredible triumph of filmmaking, both within the comic book genre and in the wider cinematic world.

**7. *Tully*:** Jason Reitman's return to form saw Charlize Theron portray a new mum, Marlo, whose struggle to keep her head above water sees the introduction of the titular night nanny. Tully's zest for life sees Marlo's life change considerably, and as the pair become fast friends that's when things start falling apart in a beautifully-portrayed film about the struggles of motherhood and the way live the lives we lead. Reitman and Theron, teaming up for a third time, were both in fine fettle here.

**6. *Phantom Thread*:** Perhaps overshadowed a little by Daniel Day-Lewis' announcement that this would be his last big-screen role (for now), Paul Thomas Anderson's captivating and engaging study of infatuation and

love, set against the austere back drop of London's fashion houses in the mid-1950s, was a film that was precision-built to get under your skin. The performances across the board were superb, and yet again highlighted how supreme a talent Anderson is.

**5. *You Were Never Really Here*:** Lynne Ramsay's unflinching story of a veteran tracking down missing girls was as joyful as it sounds; however, this was cinema that dared you to look away, its central turn by Joaquin Phoenix as Joe chilling and exceptional. Featuring one of the best set-pieces of the year, as Joe lays siege to those holding a girl captive using only a hammer, show through the soundless buzz of CCTV cameras, Ramsay's film was provocative and vital.

**4. *First Man*:** Damien Chazelle's sombre depiction of the race to the moon, told through the eyes of Neil Armstrong (played with restraint and subtlety by Ryan Gosling) was visually incredible, a mix of hand-held close up and majestic shots of the moon that added up to a slowly-paced, but never less than compelling film. Claire Foy's understated turn as Armstrong's wife was another quiet delight in a film full of them, a story of dedication and herculean effort.

**3. *American Animals*:** Bart Layton's retelling of a group of young men who undertake a heist on a college library to steal and sell rare book of paintings was given a jolt of electricity by his decision to cut between documentary talking heads of the real people involved and a dramatised version of events. No case of style over substance, Layton's film held a mirror up to today's society of 'want it, get it' and told a cautionary tale.

**2. *Sorry To Bother You*:** Boots Riley is better known as a musician and an activist, but thanks to this film, the term writer/director will be added to that list. A story of telemarketer Cassius (Lakeith Stanfield) who is told that to get ahead he should use his 'white voice' becomes a film that takes aim at many targets, and gets a direct hit with each one. The performances are excellent, and the film's lurch into dark, absurdist comedy is pitch-perfect.

**1. *A Quiet Place*:** Pegged as just another schlocky take on the horror genre, *A Quiet Place* was the year's biggest sensation, and an incredible breakout for writer/director/lead (along with his wife Emily Blunt) John Krasinski. Set in a world where creatures hunt humans using sound, the clever concept gave way to a film that delivered jump scares and emotion gut punches in equal measure, and takes the idea to far grander levels than you could think possible.

Gareth Jamieson

## College's top accolade

**CARDIFF and Vale College (CAVC) has become the first further education institution in Wales to be named a Showcase College by Microsoft.**

employers by boosting learners' skills in science, technology, engineering, the arts and maths (STEAM).

Cardiff and Vale College E-learning manager Hannah Mathias said: "It's a great achievement for CAVC to receive this award as it demonstrates how far we have come over the last two years. Microsoft has been very supportive and has helped the college to achieve its digital transformation vision."

CAVC principal Kay Martin said: "Cardiff and Vale College's mission is to be a leading educational business, delivering high quality education and training, outstanding results, skilled and employable people, excellent customer service, innovative business growth and continued investment that supports prosperous communities and a thriving economy."

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# Milestone AGM for the Rhoose Lifeguards



RHOOSE Lifeguards recently held their 50th AGM at Fontygary Leisure Complex, combined with their annual award presentation evening and club Christmas party.

The evening opened with the AGM, voting in new officers for the 2018/19 season.

The club had a very successful 217/18 season and club chair Denise Cooper thanked all officers and members for the hard work, dedication and commitment they had put in over the last year, contributing to the success and the wonderful family atmosphere that has been created, taking the club from strength to strength.

Awards were presented to the following:

Nipper Awards: Most Improved Boy – Joel Hicks; Most Improved Girl – Elliana Phillips; Best Team Spirit – Robert Grice and Jessica Hole; Nippers Nipper – James Ashman; Overall Nipper – Xantia Hobrough.

Many of the Nippers gained Level 2 and Level 3 Surf Competency Awards and were presented with a certificate of achievement. More than 24 Nippers were awarded 'The Outstanding Achievement Award', which is presented to Nippers who compete in every individual event at all competitions throughout the year. Well done to all those who received this award.

Junior Awards: First Year Junior – Xantia Hobrough; Most Improved Paddler – Petros Grigoriou; Junior of the Year – Evie Wong; Skills

and Technique – Kiera Harris.

Certificates were also presented to a number of Juniors, Seniors and Masters for gaining their Level 1 and Level 2 Beach Lifesaver Awards, NVBLQ Lifeguard Award, Masters Competition Awards and Surf Ski Competency.

Lifeguard of the Year went to Leighton Dutton and Sian Laycock for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

The Margaret Cooper Trophy was presented to Norman and Amanda Lane for all their help with ski training.

The Sarah Thompson Beach Aggregate Award went to Evie Wong.

The Fontygary Pool Aggregate Award was presented to Sian Laycock.

The Toudic Cup Award (for the club handicapped swim) went to Ollie Wong for the Open and Xantia Hobrough for Nippers.

The Kevin Rowland Trophy, for most points accumulated in competitions throughout the year, was presented to Karen O'Donoghue-Harris.

Club captain Dave Cooper congratulated all those who won awards and certificates and thanked everyone who raced, coached and supported the club throughout the season, contributing to the club's success.

The evening concluded with a raffle, disco and buffet and the club wishes to thank all those who donated prizes and bought tickets.

JH



## Venus lower than Uranus in January

THE Milky Way is above us, stretching from the north-western horizon to the south-eastern horizon.

This month, the winter constellations put on a great show with lots of bright stars vying for attention. The three main constellations overhead are Perseus, Cassiopeia and Auriga, yet eyes are drawn to the south-eastern portion of our sky, as this is where we find Taurus with its two prominent open clusters the Hyades and the Pleiades visible to the naked eye.

Observers can also find another object – the Crab Nebula; it requires a telescope and is a supernova. When viewed through small telescopes, it just appears as a small yellow cloud, and one could be forgiven for thinking, "Is that it?"

The name 'crab' refers to how the nebula looks when photographed using large telescopes. A supernova produced by a star much larger than our Sun, in this case about 12 times its mass, that explodes. The nebula we see is the result of that explosion. We think the gas is expanding a speed around 1,000 km/s and its current diameter is about 10 light years across.

Even though it is some 6,000 light years away, it was recorded by Chinese astronomers in AD 1054, and was visible during daylight hours for a period of several weeks.

The star has not been completely obliterated and what is left of the original object is something called a neutron star. Due to the explosion, it is

now spinning about 30 times a second. As it spins, it produces beams of light from its poles and these are the 'pulses' detected by astronomers. This pulsar may be some 30-odd kilometres across.

This month we will see the first of the main meteor showers. The Quadrantids peak in the early hours of January 4 and can produce 100 shooting stars an hour. The radiant lies below the tail of the Plough, so turn your back on this part of the sky, sit or lie down, wrap up warm and watch the show.

In the early hours of January 21 we have a total eclipse of the Moon. If you are still awake at 0330 GMT you will be in time for the best bit at 0440 GMT the Moon will enter the darkest part of the Earth's shadow and totality begins and this phase ends at 0543 GMT. Look out during the total phase and see what colour the Moon is; orange, red or brown, or perhaps a mixture of all three.

On the mornings of January 1 and 2, the Moon appeared to be close to the planet Venus. On the evening of January 14, it lies below the planet Uranus; on January 17, it will be in the constellation of Taurus near to the Hyades star cluster. On January 20, it will lie below the bright star Pollux in the constellation of Gemini.

If you go out to observe and think about how cold it is this month, remember on January 3, the Earth is closest to the Sun!

Visit [www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com](http://www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com) for details.

Dave Powell, Barry Astronomical Society

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held a surprise birthday party for one of its founder members, Basil George, on his 90th birthday at the Six Bells, Penmark, recently.

Society members, friends and family gathered for the occasion and enjoyed a buffet meal in the company of good friends.

The photograph shows the founding members of the Society: Back row (left to right) Jeremy Jacob, John Thomas, Julian Radcliffe and Edward Thomas; front row (left to right) Andrew Studley, Basil George, David James and Rhys Morgan.

**editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**  
**01446 774484**

## Birthday surprise for Basil



## England for the Vale

I AM concerned by the words of Ross England's spokesperson (and thus Mr England's words).

Who controls the funding of the WAG? Westminster Who's in Government at Westminster? The Tories.

Do they blame the WAG for the underfunding of services in Wales? Yes.

You wouldn't hear a peep out of them if the Tories controlled the WAG.

The Tories, in their single-minded pursuit [GEM note: it was a Tory-Lib colation from 2010-15] of austerity, have savagely reduced funding to a widespread number of organisations across the UK. Austerity has been shown not to work, by many reputable economists worldwide.

Austerity is a political choice, not an economic reason. The Tories apparently don't understand the word 'irony'.

Tim Jefferson, Llantwit Major.

## What's on, and where...

### Councillor's surgery

CONSERVATIVE councillor Carolyn Webster is holding a surgery for residents of the Newcastle ward, Bridgend on Saturday, January 5, between 10am and 12pm in the library at Halo Recreation Centre (The Rec), Bridgend. No appointment is necessary.

Cllr Webster said: "If any resident would like to discuss any matter which they think I might be able to help them with and this time is inconvenient, I can also be contacted on 07743574786 or by email on [cllr.carolyn.webster@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carolyn.webster@bridgend.gov.uk)."

**Friends of the Earth meeting**  
THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, January 8, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, because the first Tuesday in the month was New Year's Day.

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- Small Cul-De-Sac
- Backing onto Parkland

**£600,000**

## The Mill, Llanblethian



- Former Watermill
- Five Bedrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- Lovely Gardens
- Full of Character
- Three Bathrooms
- Delightful Village Location
- Walking Distance of Cowbridge

**£750,000**

## The Old Manse, St Nicholas



- Former Manse
- Original features
- Four Bedrooms
- Wonderful Gardens
- Village Facilities
- Built 1910
- Modern Facilities
- Two Living Rooms
- Tucked Away Location
- EPC Rating - D

**£595,000**

## Broadlands, Sutton



- Built in 1913
- Modernised and Extended
- Two Living Rooms
- Mature Gardens
- Easy Access to Cowbridge Town Centre
- Semi Detached Property
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Huge Conservatory
- Lovely Rural Location

**£339,950**

## Badgers Brook Close, Ystradgyniad



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- Double Glazed
- Lovely Large Garden
- Tiny Cul-De-Sac
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- Village Facilities

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## St Bleddians Close, Cowbridge



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- Good Sized Garden
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- EPC Rating - E

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#### LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice of Application to Vary a Premises Licence TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Take notice that Vale of Glamorgan plc has made an application under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary a premises licence for the Sir Samuel Romilly, Romilly Buildings, Broad Street, Barry, CF62 7AU. The application seeks to amend condition 5 in Annex 3 on the premises licence in respect of the provision of door step services. There are no other changes to the Premises Licence. The postal address of the relevant licensing authority is set out below and a record of the application may be inspected there during normal office hours. Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU or by e-mail to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. Written representations must be received no later than Thursday 17th January 2019. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly supply alcohol to a minor in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries an unlimited fine. Dated 20th December 2018

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Informedia



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## Family Notices

**DREW  
Michael**

Peacefully on the 24th December 2018, Michael passed away at Cheltenham General Hospital. Loved son of Rosemary and Trevor; and partner of Cathi.

*He will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.*

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday, 11th January 2019 at 10am. Flowers and donations welcomed in Michael's memory. Donations can be sent to the Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund, The LINC Office, Haematology Department, Cheltenham General Hospital, Sandford Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7AN.

**GUEST  
Barbara Elizabeth**

Peacefully on 16th December 2018, Barbara passed away at Morriston Hospital. Much loved mother of Simon, Andrew, Hugh and Hilary; and affectionate mother-in-law to Anna, Kate and Ruth. Loving grandma to Rhian, Lowri and Eleri; Isabella and Lara; Lucy and Rosie; and great grandmother to Barney and Albie.

*She will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.*

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Tuesday, 15th January 2019 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in Barbara's memory welcomed to the NSPCC, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London, EC2A 3NH.

**JENKINS  
Elizabeth (Libby)  
(née Davies)**

Peacefully on 24th December 2018, Libby, beloved wife of Dave. Much loved mum of Julie and Deborah, adored nan and great nan.

*Libby will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Thursday, 10th January 2019 at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Flowers may be sent or donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

**EVANS  
Allan**

Suddenly on 25th December 2018, aged 73 years. Devoted husband to Gaynor, loving father to Lee, Meloney and Hayley. Cherished grandfather and great grandfather to all his grandchildren.

*Allan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Monday, 14th January at 11.30am, followed by a interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations can be made in memory of Allan to The R.N.L.I the Service.

**CLOSE  
Kenneth Thomas**

Peacefully on 24th December at Springbank Care Home, Barry, Kenneth sadly passed away. Beloved husband of the late Betty and much loved dad of Diane and Ian, Ray and Carol and their families.

*'At Home With The Lord'.*

Kenneth is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a service of thanksgiving at Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road, Barry on Friday, 11th January at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family floral tributes only please. Further enquiries please telephone 01446 407962.

**ST CLAIR  
Iris Maureen**

Passed away on 23rd December 2018, aged 90. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral service at 11am on Friday, 18th January 2019 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

**VOSS  
Jean**

Peacefully in her sleep on 17th December 2018 in the Hazlehurst Nursing Home, Penarth, aged 93. Wife and partner of Vic for over 60 years. Fond mother of Roy, Shane and Ingrid. Loving Granny to Maddy, Jake, Toby, Bryn, and Nye. Much loved by all the wider family.

Funeral at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 9PX on Monday, 14 January 2019 at 3pm. Informal simple cremation, no service.

All welcome (including children).

Family flowers only, please. A suggestion for donation in lieu would be Macmillan Nurses. Enquiries to James Summers Funeralcare, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP. Tel. 029 2070 5687.

Afterwards there will be a buffet at the Lamb and Flag, Wick, CF71 7QE. Tel. 01656 890278. All welcome (whether or not attending Crematorium and including children).

**MASON  
Esme Rosemary (née Dawe)**

Suddenly on 20th December 2018 at Llandough Hospital, Esme, aged 80 years. Beloved wife of the late Eric much loved mum of Gordon, Brett, Sarah and Richard. A loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

*Esme will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

Flowers may be sent or donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Removers Benevolent Association (RBA) c/o the Funeral director.

**WHITAKER  
Jennie (née Morris)**

After a short illness on 23rd December 2018, aged 89 years at Llandough Hospital. Loving wife to Brian, dear mum to Anne and Rose, fond mother-in-law to Martin.

*Jennie will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in All Saints' Church, Barry on Friday, 18th January at 1pm, followed by a committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home or donations in memory of Jennie may be made Directly to Macular Society, PO Box 1870, Andover, SP10 9AD.

**HIGGS  
Derek**

Peacefully on Wednesday, 26th December after a long illness at his home in Cowbridge, aged 88 years. Beloved husband of Pamela, father to Chris, Phil and Mike, father-in-law to Andrea, Cheryl and Sue. Grandfather to Andrew, Robert, Nick, Bethan and Megan. Derek will be sadly missed by all.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Ffommor. Funeral Thursday, 10th January 2019, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. The family request no flowers or black ties to be worn, donations if desired, to the Air Ambulance c/o the funeral director.

**BRIGGS  
Norma Margaret**

Peacefully on 18th December, aged 93 years. Loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

*Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.*

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Ffommor. Funeral Tuesday, 8th January, service 1.15pm at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery.

No flowers by request.

**JAMES  
Thomas (Tom)**

Peacefully passed away on 25th December at Holme Towers, aged 72. Much loved husband of Lynne and much loved dad to Simon and Stuart. Very much loved granddad and great granddad.

Funeral service on 4th January 2019 at 1pm at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to Holme Towers. Please wear bright colours.

**McKANE  
Gerrard**

It is with a broken heart the family announce the passing of Ged. A beloved husband and soul mate to wife Carol, who passed quietly away on the 19th December 2018, with his loving wife Carol (babe), nephew Don, niece Wendy and family at his side at Princess of Wales Hospital.

*He will be sadly missed by Terry, Angie and Ged's loving family and friends at home and in Liverpool.*

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Monday, 14th January 2019 at 1.15pm. The family asks that the congregation wear their football shirts to the service in Ged's memory.

## In Memory

**BURGE  
Grace**

'I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.' A year has passed without you, though we still feel you with us, we miss you every day. Love always x

**ROWLANDS  
Cathy B.E.M**

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On 2nd January you should be celebrating your 44th birthday with us. Sadly we can only celebrate with your spirit. Have a lovely birthday our angel.

All our love always and forever.  
Mum and Dad, Chlo, Sam, Josh, Jake and Matty, Helen and family, Sian and family xxx

**LEWIS  
Gwilym Wynne**

Treasured memories of Wynne who passed away on 3rd January 2003. Loving husband of Coleen, devoted father of Wynne and Michele, ever remembered bampy and father-in-law.

Always loved and forever in our thoughts.

## Acknowledgements

**Peggie Merrett**  
would like to wish family,  
friends and neighbours  
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# Hardy souls brave the Ty Hafan New Year's dip

THE Ty Hafan New Year's Day Dip drew thousands to Barry Island and ANDY WICKS was on hand to capture the day.



# On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

**THE Coral Welsh Grand National at Chepstow on Thursday, December 27, was won by the 3-1 favourite *Elegant Escape* but the loudest cheers of the day came in the previous race, The 'Smart Money's On Coral' Handicap Hurdle when Llancarfan's Isabel Williams, aged 21, riding her mother Catherine's six-year-old French-bred *Virginia Chick* held on by half-a-length to beat the favourite *Truckers Lodge*, ridden by Pembrokeshire's Lorcen Williams.**

Isabel, the reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider, who was chalking up her eighth winner under Rules said: "That went really well for us. He's a lovely horse and I could hear the crowd cheering once I jumped the last. It was just great to be here today."

She added: "I've only managed to win a few point-to-point in my mum's colours so it was nice to get this one."

Her sister Ellie led up the horse so it was a real family occasion, especially as her grandmother Mary Evans, a former leading rider between-the-flags, was also present. Like her son Evan, Mary, as Mary Williams, has also ridden at Chepstow Racecourse.

Isabel's mother Catherine trains the point-to-pointers that Isabel rides but *Virginia Chick* is trained by her father Evan Williams, who said: "I don't know what to say without making a fool of myself. I'm delighted, over the moon in fact, and I'm lucky to be in a position to give her rides on horses which suit her. But I can't tell you how hard she really works in the yard."

*Virginia Chick* was the second winner of the day for Evan as he had won the opening The Get Super Smart Boosts At Coral Maiden Hurdle with *Present Value* a 13-2 chance, who ridden by stable jockey Adam Wedge came home seven lengths ahead of *Hill Sixteen*.

On Boxing Day, at Market Rasen, Evan's *Cesar Collonges* a 7-1 chance, with Wedge in the saddle beat the odds-on *Sir Egbert* while at Wincanton James Bowen, riding *Potters Corner* for Ogmore's Christian Williams, came in at odds of 18-1.

It was at this meeting that Lorcen Williams landed a double for Paul Nicholls with *Posh Trish* and *Flic Ou Voyer*.

Another Welsh trainer to saddle a winner over the Christmas holiday was Bridgend's John Flint, who at Kempton Park last Thursday saw his *Eddiemaurice*, a 9-1 shot partnered by Nick Schofield, win the closing handicap hurdle at odds of 9-1.

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft's good start to the new point-to-point season came to a halt at the Carmarthenshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases held at Ffos Las Racecourse on Saturday, December 22.

In the mares and fillies race he pulled up on *Inner Loop*; in the open maiden race his mount *Dino Boy* was a last fence faller, then on *Union Jack D'ycy* in the Timico Open race he finished an 18 lengths runner-up to *Bally River Boy*.

He then pulled up his mount *Shes A Gangster* in the restricted and then finished third on *Kensington Hill* behind *The Girl From Milan* and *Blazing Tom* in the Conditions race.

The man in form at the meeting was Bradley Gibbs as he won the Mares Maiden race on *Highway Jewell*, the Restricted Open on Captain McGinley and the Conditions race on *The Girl From Milan*.

*Highway Jewell*, a four-year-old chestnut filly the youngest of the seven starters, finished alone after the early leader *Jemma's Gift* had refused. *Jemma's Gift*'s partner, the leading amateur rider Gina Andrews, apparently earned the wrath of the stewards and was fined £150 for not pulling up a beaten and tired horse.

His second winner came when the odds-on *Captain McGinley* ploughed through the heavy ground to come home a distance ahead of *Honourable Henry* in the four-runner race.

In the Conditions Race, the odds-on *The Girl From Milan*, handy throughout, won by 10 lengths from *Blazing Tom* after surviving a last fence blunder.

Winning trainer David Gibbs, Bradley's father,

who owing to work missed seeing the first of his son's wins, said: "I've trained a lot of no-hoppers in my time but it's nice to have some good horses to work with."

## TIMICO MIXED OPEN RACE

**THE Timico Mixed Open race went to the Cotswold Vale invader *Bally River Boy*, a seven-year-old chestnut gelding who under James King, 23, won by 18 lengths from the Byron Moorcroft-partnered *Union Jack D'ycy*.**

Bradley Gibbs' mount *Moral Hazard* the 5-4 favourite finished a further 10 lengths away in third spot.

Winning trainer Jake Slatter, who was full of praise for the organisers in staging the meeting under difficult conditions, said: "Bally River Boy can be a bit quirky at times and has been known to drop me."

Winning rider King, who has ridden around 70 winners, said: "He's a lovely horse he did a grand job and he's just super."

The closest finish of the day came in the opening Carmarthenshire Hunt Members' race in which the eight-year-old *Manhattan Mead* got home by a neck from the favourite Hospital with *Jack The Hat* a further half-a-length away in third place.

However, Hospital's owner/rider Elen Nicholas failed to weigh-in and was fined £60.

*Manhattan Mead* is owned by Gwyn Phillips and Paul Hamer, who also trains the horse and was ridden by Ben Jones, the son of Dai Jones MFH of the Carmarthenshire Hunt and who like the winning trainer Hamer is a former Welsh champion point-to-point rider.

Ben, aged 19, was chalking up his 20th success and the odds are that we should be hearing more about this talented young rider in the future.

There were 11 starters for the Open Maiden Race For Horses And Goldings and this went to the Mickey Bowen-trained *Hidden Cargo* who, under Hereford-born Peter Bryan, beat the Llangeinor Hunt-qualified *Guiding Stars*, partnered by Sean Quinton.

Mickey, whose younger brother James later in the day won the Garrard Silver Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot on the 33-1 outsider *Valtor* for Nicky Henderson, said of the Irish-bred *Hidden Cargo*: "He's an open horse running in a maiden. We will probably aim him at an hunter chase here next year or the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow in April."

Six horses faced the starter for the Four, Five and Six Year Olds JRL Group Flat Race over two miles and this was won by 10-1 chance *Dr Kananga*, who under Gloucestershire's Danny Burton won by six lengths from the odds-on *Geordie* ridden by Peter Bryan.

Winning trainer David Gibbs, Bradley's father,

## Mark Wallace takes up post as Glamorgan's new director of cricket

**FORMER Glamorgan captain Mark Wallace has been appointed as the club's new director of cricket.**

The 37-year-old will succeed Hugh Morris, who left the role to concentrate on his position as chief executive at the club.

Wallace, who has worked for the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) since retiring following the 2016 season will start his new role on 1st February 2019.

The wicketkeeper batsman spent 18 years in the first team and captained Glamorgan from 2013 to 2015, playing 264 first-class games. During his career he amassed 15,429 runs over all forms including 17 centuries and took 944 catches.

He was elected as the PCA's chairman in 2013 and was re-appointed to serve a second two-year term before taking up a permanent position with the organisation after his retirement as a player.

"I'm extremely grateful to the PCA for everything they've done

playable with plenty of pace on the greens. With 62 points, Roger Hatton, Fred Furby, Eddie Fothergill and Section Chairman, Gordon Martin, claimed the victory.

In their second competition of the week, this one played in three balls with the better of two scores counting, Martin once again helped amass a winning score of 54 points, supported on this occasion by Owen Maund and Graham Jones. Wallace is also an

ECB Level 4 qualified coach, has a Master's Degree in Sport, Culture and Society from Cardiff Metropolitan University and has worked in both written and broadcast media.

Mark said: "I'm delighted to have been given the opportunity to come back to Glamorgan and I'm looking forward to working with a young squad of players and alongside a talented coaching team.

"However, it won't just be a question of working closely with the first team. We need to ensure we maximise all our resources and that means improving Welsh cricket in general and developing closer relationships with the clubs and Cardiff MCCU.

"I'm extremely grateful to the PCA for everything they've done

for me and the past two years has been a brilliant learning experience within a high quality organisation.

"Having spent a few years outside of Glamorgan, I believe I can come into the club with new ideas and a fresh perspective to lead the club in the right direction."

Glamorgan chairman, Gareth Williams, said: "Mark was the standout candidate for the position following a rigorous recruitment process which brought interest from around the globe."

"We were looking for someone who could lead cricket activities, recruitment, contracts, players and our development programmes, and also work closely with local clubs and universities and he ticked all those boxes."

"We're very confident he will drive Glamorgan forward and help bring success to the club both on and off the pitch."

*Dr Kananga* is owned by Ben Clarke and is qualified with the Seavington Hunt.

## FROM FIRST TO LAST

**SPARE a thought for Bridgend trainer John Flint and his amateur rider Imogen Mathias who was having her first ride in the Amateur Riders Handicap at Chelmsford on December 20.**

Imogen, riding Flint's *Winklemann*, an 8-1 chance, passed the winning post an easy six lengths 'winner' ahead of 40-1 chance *Holy Tiber*. However, following an objection by the clerk of the scales when Imogen weighed in her mount was placed last!

During the finish of the race, her weight cloth slipped and she lost some of her lead weights which meant after weighing out at the correct weight of 10st, 10lb, she weighed in at just 8st, 10lb.

An understanding Mr Flint said: "It's a bit unfortunate as that was her first ride. I have seen this sort of thing happen in jump racing but seldom on the flat."

## EVAN'S TAUNTON WINNER

**RAILWAY Junkie ended the year in fine style for Llancarfan's Evan Williams and stable jockey Adam Wedge when landing the Age UK Somerset Handicap Chase at Taunton on Sunday, December 30.**

The five-year-old won easily by two and three quarter lengths from *Broughtons Rhythm*.

Earlier in the day, Williams had seen his previous winner *Gwalia* beaten by three parts of a length by *Beltor*, ridden by TJ O'Brien, and a 5-1 chance, *Beltor*, racing for the first time in nearly two years, is trained by former point-to-point rider Robert Stephens at Chepstow.

## CHRISTIAN'S GOOD START TO THE YEAR

**OGMORE by Sea's Christian Williams, who was at one time Evan Williams' assistant trainer, got off to a good start to 2019 when both the horses he sent to Fakenham won their respective races.**

First off the mark was eight-year-old *Sideways* who, under amateur rider Tom O'Brien, landed the Norfolk's Finest Drinkers Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase when coming home five lengths ahead of the bottom-weighted *Stonebridge Legend*.

Then, later in the day, five-year-old *Strikingly Dancer*, ridden by David England, took the Sky Sports Racing Now Live Handicap Hurdle by two-and-a-half lengths from recent winner *Todd*.

The former went off the 11-4 favourite and the latter was returned at odds of 9-2.

## Rugby League trials this month

**WALES Rugby League will be holding two trials for their Student international side that will compete in the Student Four Nations Championships in Scotland this summer.**

The first trial will be at the official WRL training base of Deeside Leisure Centre on Sunday, January 20 from 10.30am, then a week later in south Wales, Sunday, January 27, there is a further trial at the Caerphilly Centre of Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach from 2.30pm.

From these trials, a squad of 30 will be selected. This squad will then train and play two or three warm up games, after which the final squad of 20 players will be selected to participate in the Student Four Nations.

Wales Students' head coach Paul Emanuelli said: "The overall goal for 2019 is to improve on last year's

performance where we finished third in the Four Nations. The programme that we now, gives us more time to fully prepare players, and having trials at both ends of Wales, gives lads from all areas the opportunity to represent their country."

Triallists need to send their details through to Wales Rugby League before Friday, January 18 for the north trial and Friday, January 25, for the south trial.

Please submit your information at [https://walesrugbyleague.co.uk/student\\_registration](https://walesrugbyleague.co.uk/student_registration)

Evidence of eligibility to play for Wales must also be proved. For Wales Students, players must either be born in Wales, have Welsh parents or grandparents, or must be studying full-time at a Welsh education establishment. Trialists must be aged 17 or over by September 1, 2019.

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest?  
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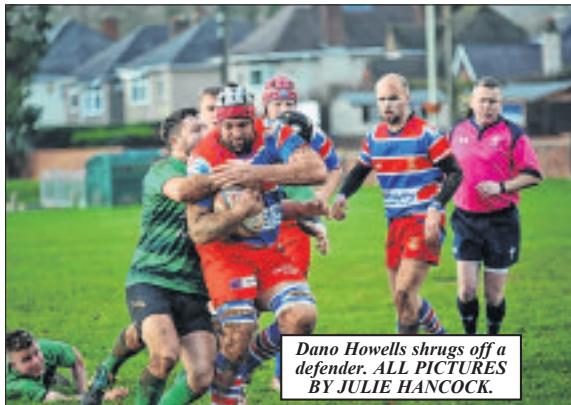
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# Pencoed advance in the Plate after epic encounter with Seven Sisters



Dano Howells shrugs off a defender. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

**FOLLOWING** a five-week layoff, Pencoed RFC started this rearranged SWALEC Plate match against Seven Sisters strongly.

The early pressure was rewarded with two penalties from the boot of Rhys Clarke and Pencoed increased their lead when man of the match Ashley Bissett, a current youth player, offloaded to Lloyd Bargery who showed typical strength to force his way over. Rhys Clarke added the extras.

Pencoed could have increased their lead but were not clinical enough. The Seven Sisters pack woke

up and started to put Pencoed under severe pressure and this was rewarded with a penalty try.

They then scored a second unconverted try but Pencoed managed to get a foothold in the visitors' half, allowing Rhys Clarke to kick a third penalty.

The last score of the half was a third unconverted try to the visitors to leave a half-time score of 16-17.

The second half started badly for the home side when they conceded a fourth try, but crucially the conversion failed.

The whole Pencoed squad dug deep and showed typical determination to save the match and

this was rewarded when Owain Clarke somehow forced his way over and brother Rhys added the extras with a fine kick to give Pencoed a tentative one-point lead on 59 minutes.

Resolute defence from the home side prevented the visitors from crossing their try line, although Seven Sisters did have an opportunity to win the match but missed a penalty kick in the 79th minute,

allowing Pencoed to win 23-22.

As an aside, youth player Josh Richards made his debut from the replacements bench and acquitted himself well.

SHD

## Tondu seconds beaten by experienced opposition



Dai Bishop attacks.



Tom Warrick looks for an opening.

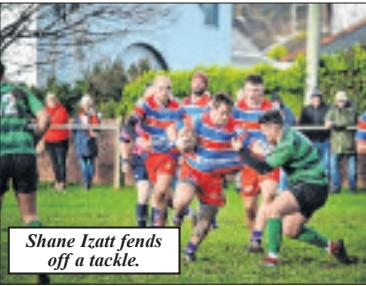
**TONDU** RFC seconds, comprising of four youth team players and players back from long absences lost 15-7 to a Bridgend Sports team containing first team players.

Tondu's defence was strong right from the off but a kick in behind saw the Sports go 7-0 up. Tondu had an opportunity to get three points on the board but the penalty was missed.

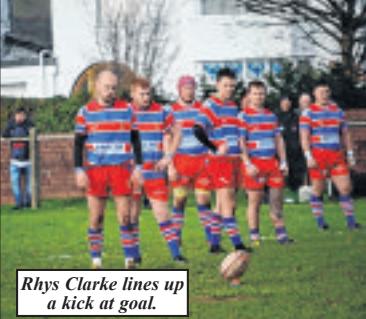
Mike Sully



Man of the match Ashley Bissett.



Shane Izatt fends off a tackle.



Rhys Clarke lines up a kick at goal.

## Good year for Barry Beavers

LAST year was another fantastic year for the Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club, with achievements and successes for the whole club.

One of these successes was eight of the gala team successfully competed in the Nationals in Sevenoaks Kent and the swimming club gala team retained the Regional Cup from last year.

This success is down to the time put in with the timings, the coaching and a dedicated swimming gala team. On top of the regional and national galas, there have been a lot of good gala performances throughout the swimming calendar year, including some of the swimmers having to upgrade their own previous events from 25m up to 100m events.

More swimmers achieved their green, red and yellow badges during club sessions, along with the club gaining more members over the year as helpers and swimmers, which has been a great achievement.

Barry Beavers took part in a swimathon on April 22 at Bridgend to raise some funds for the club, as well as for the host team and they all swam well. A team of 12 Beavers took part in the special gala on behalf of Lyndsay, who is battling illness at her swimming club.

The club's PIP 3 had a great turnout with members from the other teams attending and taking part in some of the performances and entertainment on the day. There were sparkly tattoos, face painting and merchandise to sell, along with a raffle and a barbecue, at which the club's cooks made some great food for all who attended.

To end the year, the club held their Christmas party at Jenner Park Football Club in Barry at which there was a great turnout on the night with a raffle and presentation of awards.

Darren and Josey Kerr ran a disco, with performances from club members entertaining everyone. There was also a special guest, Santa, who handed out gifts to the children at the party.

NC

## Barry Vets impress in cup match

MERTHYR Vets welcomed manager Jimmy Blackie, Barry started more positively in the second half and a rare flowing move ended with substitute Chris Rutherford giving his team a comfortable lead with his very first touch.

However, Merthyr's never-say-die attitude had to be applauded and they pressed forward regardless. Their endeavours were rewarded when the influential Mark Price headed home well when unmarked at a corner, and although the hosts had the lions share of possession for the remainder of the game, Barry glove-man Jones was rarely tested and the Seagiders held on for a precious win.

With no further games until January 6, Barry are well-placed in all competitions – the over-55s top their group in the cup and are second in the league with a game in hand, while the over-50s are three points off the league leaders with a game in hand and face Cwmbran in the cup semi-final on February 3.

AH

## Barry and District League tables and results

**CRIB DIVISION 1:** Rhoosters 57.0, King Street B 16. Rhoose Social 9, William XII 52.5, Rugby S N O O K E R DIVISION 2:

West End B 1, Market Street C 4; Penarth Cons

B 3, Wyndham Cons D 2; Rhoose Social C 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3; West End A 1, Sully Sports A 4; Savoy B 4, Services Social B 1.

League table: Liberals A 40.5, Liberals

95, Rhoose Social 95, C 40.0, Rhoose Social B 34.5, Barries Boys 27.5, Cambrian Flyers 18.5, Wyndham Cons 83, S N O O K E R Moors Boys 79.

Moors Boys 11. Slammers 42.5, League table: Liberals A 40.5, Liberals

95, Rhoose Social 95, C 40.0, Rhoose Social B 34.5, Barries Boys 27.5, Cambrian Flyers 18.5, Wyndham Cons 83, S N O O K E R

Moors Boys 79. Slammers 42.5, League table: Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

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King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

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Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

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King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

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Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

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King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

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Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.5, B 2, Market Street B 3; Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts Harbour B 5, Cadoxton 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Cadoxton 5, Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social 3.5, Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Wyndham Cons 3.5, Slammers 3.5; Cadoxton Cons A 3; Rhoose Social

King William XII 4.



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## Ath at the double after Gilfach Goch victory



Caine Woolerton makes a break - see more pictures from JOHN CANNON at [glamorgan-gem.co.uk/sport](http://glamorgan-gem.co.uk/sport).

**BRIDGEND** Athletic RFC recorded a seasonal double against nearest Division 1 East rivals Gilfach Goch with a hard-earned 19-10 victory at Newbridge Fields.

With both sides desperate for points, it was a must-win game. Gilfach Goch kicked off with a favourable moderate breeze in their favour and a very greasy surface.

Gilfach had the better of the opening exchanges but a combination of spirited Athletic defence and handling errors saw the Athletic ride out the early away side's attacks. Gradually, the Athletic pack assumed a degree of control over the game.

Veterans prop Wayne Fooks and lock Jonathan Stoker were strong ball carriers throughout and the front row of Matthew Muir, Lee Murphy and Fooks had the edge in the set scrum. Athletic flanker Sean Williams had an immense game ruling the line out throughout.

Somehow with Gilfach Goch driving a maul into the Athletic 22, flanker and captain Ben Howe came away with the ball before offloading to outside half Caine Woolerton. Woolerton broke into the Gilfach half and a chip ahead went into touch on the Gilfach 22 metre line.

Gilfach were penalised at the lineout and full back Aled Thomas kicked to touch five metres from the Gilfach line. The initial Athletic drive was repelled, but the Athletic were patient setting up surge after surge at the Gilfach line.

Lock Will Petchell went close. Having committed the Gilfach side to a narrow defence scrum half Dan James launched the back line. Outside half Woolerton brought centres Chris Price and Tom Jenkins into play and slick passing saw full back Aled Thomas enter the line to cross wide out. Woolerton converted to give his side a 7-10 lead.

Buoyed by this score, the Athletic went back on the attack and the backs launched another attack inside the Gilfach 22. However, a long pass was pounced off by a Gilfach defender who raced away into the Athletic 22.

Athletic wing Will Barracough did manage to cut off the player, but Gilfach outside half Liam Greening was in support to score out wide to reduce his side's deficit to 7-5.

With half-time looming, Athletic No 8 Ben Davies broke from inside his

own half and with support from fellow back row forwards Ben Howe and Sean Williams, carried the ball into the Gilfach 22.

The Athletic went through the phases and eventually outside half Woolerton wriggled over with the final move of the half. He converted his own try to give the Athletic a 14-5 half-time lead.

Gilfach hit back within five minutes of the second half. They pressured the Athletic on their try line. An ambitious pass in defence by the Athletic went astray and Gilfach prop Declan Thomas pounced to score and reduce the Athletic lead to 14-10.

The Athletic pack were generally in control of the game but were trying to play from too far out in difficult handling conditions the frustration of the coaches who were urging them to kick for territory.

The Athletic brought on fresh legs with prop Matthew Norman, lock Joe Graham and flanker Tom Davies joining the action. Norman was prominent carrying the ball along with hooker Lee Murphy and Stoker in the latter stages.

Their pick and goes took the Athletic into the Gilfach 22 when the back line moved the ball quickly through the hands of James, Woolerton, Price and Jenkins to wing Owain Leyshon. Leyshon ran strongly for 15 metres and dived low to prevent the tackle and slid over the try line to give the Athletic a 19-10 lead.

Gilfach were desperate for a losing bonus point and aided by a succession of penalties had a five-metre lineout in the last minute. The Athletic were penalised halting the driving maul.

However, Gilfach kicked the ball dead when aiming for another five-metre touch to end the game without a league point on the day.

Athletic Coach Gerald Williams was pleased with the Ath's commitment stating: "We grafted out a very important win." The club are grateful to its mini and junior section coaches and committee for its ongoing support and for sponsoring the fixture.

The Athletic now face three games against teams in the top four positions in the league. Away games against Treorchy this Saturday, January 5, followed by another away game at league leaders Glamorgan Wanderers before a home game against Rumney.

AB

## Boxing Day game celebrates Scott's life



A MAESTEG Celtic XV entertained a Valley Select XV at Garth Park on Boxing Day to celebrate the life of Scott Davies, who passed away recently.

The Valley Select XV contained representatives from Maesteg Quins, Nantyffyllon, Glyncorwrg, Maesteg and past Celtic players.

The game was played with good spirit and was entertaining to watch. Celtic tries were scored by Neil Arthur, James Jones, Keith

Stone and a penalty try. Neil Arthur kicked two conversions.

The try scorers for the Valley XV were Scott Sainsbury and Chadd George. Luke Hopkins kicked one conversion.

Scott's family were present when Celtic chairman John Edwards unveiled a bench, in memory of Scott, overlooking the pitch of dreams. A collection was made and the sum of £254 was donated.

KS

## Waterwheelers just edge out Kenfig Hill in poor conditions

IT wasn't a day into the final quarter for running rugby in this encounter between Kenfig Hill and Tondu as the mist swamped the Kenfig ground - it was difficult to see from one end of the pitch to the other.

The Tondu pack took control of things, pushing the Mules eight all over their own 22 to claim a succession of penalties that ultimately gave the referee no choice but to award a penalty try.

The visitors then launched an attack into their opponents' 22, and they were awarded a second penalty try when flanker David Griggs was taken out off the ball.

At that point, the game turned in favour of the home side, as first flanker Josh Dixon went over in the corner after good work from the forwards, and four minutes later an interception by wing Jamie Williams saw him run in under the posts, with Nicky Giles adding the conversion to cut Tondu's lead to just two points at the interval.

Conditions in the second period didn't lend themselves to classic rugby, and it was difficult to distinguish who was who as the game moved

into the final eight minutes or so pounding at the Tondu line, and it was only last-ditch defence that kept them out until the seventh minute of injury time when Sam Powell's corner try gave Giles the opportunity to level the scores.

A difficult kick in difficult conditions wasn't to be, and the bragging rights ended up with the Waterwheelers on this occasion, which they just about deserved.

Tondu seconds, meanwhile, went down 15-7 to Bridgend Sports and the youth and the Titans were both without

gains at the interval.

Tondu now have to get themselves ready for a stern test on Saturday, when Ystalyfera are the visitors at Pandy Park.

Mike Sully



ABOVE: It was a mud bath as Kenfig Hill and Tondu battled it out in less-than-perfect conditions - see more photos from GARETH ANTHONY at [glamorgan-gem.co.uk/sport](http://glamorgan-gem.co.uk/sport).

## Bridgend Athletic mini and junior rugby round-up

THE under-14s were in cup action over up to the break.

The second half saw Tondu extend their lead straight from the whistle,

Bragging rights before the Ath started

were with Tondu, who had won the last few meetings and there was a great deal of determination in the Ath

ranks to rectify that.

Tondu, however, were being heavily penalised by the ref and the Ath

were making some headway, eventually

opening their account with a good try from

Sam Barracough down the wing. Tondu had the final word, though,

with a try for a comprehensive

nature of their win. The Ath boys played well for periods of the game, but made a lot of errors and will be disappointed that they were not able to impose

themselves on the game more than they did.

They tackled hard, though, and can hold their heads up as this was the type of game that could have overwhelmed them. The team will look to eradicate those errors next time out.

Despite the defeat, some of the boys had strong games with Jacob Cox, Charlie Davis, Shea Duggan and McKenzie Grey the pick of the bunch.

AB

Got a sports story,  
match report  
or item of interest?  
Email [sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk](mailto:sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk)